

Remarks

After entry of the amendments presented herein, Claims 22, 35-37, 40-42, 47-54, 69, 77-100, 103-119, and 143-150 are pending in the application. Claims 7, 8 and 120-123 are canceled herein. Claims 143 and 144 are amended herein. Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

I. Objections

Claims 143 and 144 were objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base claim. (Office Action, page 2.) As amended herein, claims 143 and 144 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner to incorporate all of the limitations of the now canceled parent claims. Applicants believe that amended claims 143 and 144 are now in condition for allowance.

The specification was objected to at page 249, line 20 for a missing sequence identifier. (Office Action, page 2.) Applicants thank the Examiner for pointing out this oversight. As amended herein the missing “SEQ ID NO:141” has been added to the specification. Submitted with this reply is a replacement sequence listing which contains the additional listing of “SEQ ID NO:141.”

II. 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Scott *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,814,300) (Office Action, page 3) and under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Piedrahita *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,271,436). (Office Action, page 4.) Claims 120-123 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Winter *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,871,907).

Solely to advance prosecution and without prejudice to the claims, Applicants cancel claims 7, 8 and 120-123. Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims directed to the subject matter of the canceled claims in continuing applications.

III. 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Scott *et al.* or Piedrahita *et al.* in view of Hodges *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,527,695) or Baszczynski *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,262,341).

Solely to advance prosecution and without prejudice to the claims, Applicants cancel claims 7 and 8. Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims directed to the subject matter of the canceled claims in continuing applications.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

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